

National Service Impact in Maine

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members are meeting critical needs and strengthening communities across Maine. In the area of education, AmeriCorps members served more than 350 students who demonstrated improved academic engagement, provided nutrition education to 1,218 young people, built or improved 145 miles of trails, enhanced the condition of 42 other natural sites, and provided disaster services to 150 citizens. Altogether, AmeriCorps members recruited or trained more than 1,500 volunteers to increase the impact of the organizations they serve.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The City of Bangor, located on the Penobscot River, has a rich tradition as a major timber port and more recently as the economic and cultural hub of northern and central Maine. As the major service center for much of Maine, the city officials work to provide quality of life, cultural richness and environmental stewardship for the benefit of its citizens and visitors. While working with city officials, AmeriCorps NCCC members built or restored 4,000 feet of boardwalk, removed 21,000 pounds of underbrush and 5,500 pounds of exotic vegetation, and conducted three summer programs for youth.

AmeriCorps VISTA

The Maine Commission AmeriCorps VISTA Project helps organizations that serve low-income residents to bring individuals and communities out of poverty. This year, 24 AmeriCorps VISTAs helped 1,305 families access the services and benefits they earned and 1,840 at-risk students were supported in learning and received health education. As a result of AmeriCorps VISTA support, community health providers received specialized training in treating veterans and their family members who suffer from PTSD and TBI, attorneys volunteered to assist veterans at benefits clinics, and colleges increased support to student veterans while keeping them on the path to graduation. More than 250 military kids participated in service-learning activities. Schools and communities worked together to engage vulnerable youth in service-learning activities, which led to increased school attendance and improved grades.

Senior Corps

The UMaine Center on Aging's mission is to promote and facilitate activities on aging in the areas of education, research and evaluation, and community service. The Center's RSVP program is dedicated to re-investing the skills and experience of individuals ages 55 and older into community service. As a result, 84 percent of 125 senior participants surveyed in the RSVP Bone Builder's program indicated an increase in muscle strength, flexibility, and balance. Of the participants, 95 percent indicated they are leading a healthier lifestyle and participating in more physical activities as a result of participating in Bone Builders. Of the 5,738 meals that RSVP volunteers served, 99 percent of meal recipients say that their health has improved, the personal contact with volunteers is important to them, and they have learned of other services for seniors by being involved with the meals program.